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# Message Text

SECRET

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70
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
---------- 051777
R 061710Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4648
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T ROME 6210

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:PFOR, NATO
SUBJECT: CSCE STAGE III

REFS: A. USNATO 2370; B. GENEVA 2645

1. REFERING TO APRIL 30 PERMREPS LUNCH DURING WHICH CHARGE MCAULIFFE RAISED MATTER, DCM IN MAY 6 CONVERSATION WITH POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL DUCCI ASKED ABOUT CURRENT ITALIAN THINKING ON LEVEL OF CSCE PHASE III. DUCCI SAID THAT THE ITALIAN POSITION WAS THE SAME AS STATED TO MESSRS. SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN DURING THEIR MARCH 29 NAC CONSULTATIONS ON CSCE, I.E., THE ITALIANS DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE THAT ENOUGH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED AT CSCE TO WARRANT A HEADS OF GOVERN-MENT SUMMIT.THE ITALIANS PREFER THAT PHASEIII BE CONDUCTED AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL. ELABORATING, DUCCI SAID THAT GOI FEARS THAT, IF A SUMMIT MEETING IS HELD IN HELSINKI, THE ITALIAN PUBLIC WILL BE CONVINCED THAT TRUE DETENTE HAS ARRIVED AND THAT THEREFORE IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN AND ADEQUATE LEVEL OF DEFENSE EXPENDITURES IN THE FACE OF THE RESULTANT POLITICAL OPPOSITION. DUCCI WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE U.S. POSITION ON PHASE III IS EXACTLY RIGHT. AS HE UNDER-
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STANDS IT, THE US IS CONSULTING ITS ALLIES AND WILL BE GUIDED BY

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THE CONCENSUS WHICH WILL EVOLVE. DUCCI STRESSED THIS APPROACH AS PREFERABLE TO THAT OF OUR ADOPTING A POSITION WHICH IN EFFECT SAYS THAT IF THE OUTCOME OF CSCE IS MARGINALLY GOOD THEN IT CAN BE BLESSED BY A PHASE III SUMMIT. DUCCI SAID THAT HAD WE ADOPTED THIS LATER POSITION, THE ONUS WOULD BE ON THE EUROPEANS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE CSCE OUTCOME IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH -- A POTENTIALLY DIVISIVE SITUATION.

2. COMMENT: DUCCI CLEARLY BELIEVES THE US HAS ADOPTED A TOTALLY NEUTRAL POLICY WITH RESPECT TO THE LEVEL OF PHASE III. OUR READING OF REFS A AND B DOES NOT NECESSARILY SUPPORT DUCCI'S INTERPRETATION OF OUR POSITION. WE WERE RELUCTANT, HOWEVER, TO CHALLENGE HIM IN THE ABSENCE OF MORE DEFINITIVE GUIDANCE. IF HIS INTERPRETATION IS IN FACT INCORRECT AND IF WASHINGTON JUDGES IT USEFUL, PLEASE ADVISE SO THAT WE CAN SET HIM STRAIGHT. VOLPE

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